

The Pipeline

Vol. 1999, Number 22

June 18, 1999

Making A Man Be A Responsible Dad: A Child Support Success

By Kathy Adams, CFC Communications-Child Support

Like many other mothers in the state of Kentucky, Mary wasn't receiving her regular court-ordered child-support payments. Jerry, like many fathers who shirk their fundamental responsibility to support their children, has the ability to pay the support, but simply chose not to.

What does it take to make a man be a responsible dad? Taking away his driver's license? Intercepting his check from the sale of his tobacco crop? Jail?

For Jerry, it took all three to collect the more than \$16,000 owed to his ex-wife, Mary.

"He only paid what he wanted to, when he wanted to," Mary said. "I had given him the benefit of the doubt for several years and it finally came to point that he wasn't doing anything."

Fed up, last July Mary applied for services from the Kentucky Cabinet for Families and Children's Division of Child Support, the state agency responsible for collecting and enforcing child and medical support obligations.

After efforts by child-support staff failed to gain Jerry's voluntary cooperation, the Division of Child Support began enforcement action in November by suspending his driver's license. Kentucky law provides for the suspension of a person's driver's license if he or she is behind at least a year's worth of support.

Still, Jerry failed to be a responsible dad.

So in December, after Mary's caseworker, Druecilla Connors, found out that Jerry had a tobacco crop, she took action to withhold money from the sale of the crop to pay his child-support debt. In January, Mary received a check for \$2,086.72 – half of the proceeds from the sale.

But still Jerry failed to be a responsible dad and pay the rest of his obligation.

Then in February, Mary's child-support case was sent for criminal prosecution. DCS contracts with local prosecutors throughout the state, like county attorneys and Friends of the Court, to prosecute delinquent child-support cases.

On Feb. 28 the Rowan County Grand Jury indicted Jerry on a charge of flagrant nonsupport. After his arrest in March, Jerry sent Mary a check for \$15,257.51 – finally eliminating his child-support debt.

"I let the child-support issue go too long," Mary said. "I should have pressed the issue a long time ago. He needed a wake-up call."

Is Jerry a responsible dad now?

Even though he has eliminated his past-due child support debt, Jerry is still not off the hook. A missed payment could land him back in jail, since the charges against him are still pending before Rowan Circuit Court.

But Mary is hopeful that Jerry has learned his lesson and that more good will come out of it.

"He's even started visiting with the children – for them, that's a plus," said Mary.

Maybe Jerry is learning that being a responsible dad means more than paying child support.



Free Stop Smoking Program Offered

Would you like to stop smoking?

A free 12-week session in the Cooper-Clayton Method to Stop Smoking begins June 22, and is available to employees of all agencies in the Human Resources Building. The only cost will be for each participant's expenditures on nicotine patches or gum.

Sessions will meet noon – 1 p.m. every Tuesday, June 22 - Sept. 21, in the Distance Learning Center, third floor of the Health Services Building.

The Cabinet for Health Services' Department for Public Health, Community Health Branch, and the Employees Services Branch of the Cabinet for Families and Children are co-sponsoring the program.

For more information, contact the Community Health Branch at (502)564-7996.



Central Office Notes and Activities

• Country music superstar Naomi Judd will help the Cabinet for Health Services kick off Phase II of the **Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (KCHIP)** June 23, 10 a.m., at the Civic Center, Frankfort.

- **STARS** will be closing a week earlier this year because of implementation of MARS July 1. Families and Children, Division of Financial Management, must receive all payment documents by June 30.
- New **CFC t-shirts** are available for ordering now. The shirts are stone-colored and are \$10 for S, M, L and XL; \$11 for XXL and XXXL. Call Bonnie Cox at 564-5028 to place your order. She will also accept orders via e-mail.
- The **American Red Cross** will take donations of blood July 7, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Health Services Building. Division recruiters will make appointments for the drive. For additional information, call Dora Kerns, of the Cabinet for Health Services, (502)564-2772, ext. 126, or Debbie Armstrong, of the Cabinet for Families and Children, (502)564-7770.
- Linda Burke of CHS' public health has established a **Fibromyalgia Support Group**, which will meet the third Thursday of each month at Highland Christian Church.. Everyone is invited. For more information, call Linda Burke at (502)564-7213.
- The **aerobics program** gets a workout every Tuesday and Thursday at 5 p.m. in the cafeteria. Call Beth Bates at (502)564-7718 for more information.
- Nominations for the Cabinet for Families and Children **Employees of the Month** are due by the 15th of each month. Contact Charlene Nation or Carmen Maxson in Employees Services, (502)564-7770, for more information.
- **In the next Pipeline:** A recap of Internal Customer Service Week, computers and lifting the "restricted desktop," and much more.

Retirements in CFC Logan Co. Office

The Logan County Protection & Permanency Office invites everyone to a reception at the office, 343 West Third Street in Russellville, July 20, 5-9 p.m., for the following retiring staff:

Sandra Barrow, Family Services Supervisor, after 35 years
Pam Young, Secretary III, after 27 years
Sherry Guion, Secretary III, after 28 years

CHS Surpasses Goal for March of Dimes Campaign

By Barbara Rutledge, CHS-OPS

The Cabinet for Health Services easily surpassed its goal of \$1,500, and collected a final total of \$2,435 for the 1999 March of Dimes campaign.

In celebration, CHS March of Dimes Chairman Roger Smiley is planning a reception June 24 at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium of the Health Services Building. The reception is for all team captains and for the staff of the Vital Statistics Branch to thank them for their hard work. The group will also start planning to increase the goal to \$4,000 in 2000!

Funds raised during the annual campaign are used for research and services to help assure healthier babies.

Employees from every department and office in CHS helped raise funds through walker sponsorships, lunches, bake sales, candy sales and shoe sales.

The biggest moneymakers were the folks in the Vital Statistics Branch of the Cabinet's Department for Public Health. Believe it or not, they raised \$100 by having employees "vote" for their favorite supervisor to kiss a live goat!

Donated Sick Leave Needed

Mildred McCrady, of CFC's Marshall County Child Support, is on extended sick leave after having a stroke. To donate time, contact Lane Sirls, (270)527-0662.

Donna Aldridge of the Division of Laboratory Services in the Dept. for Public Health is currently on leave after having surgery. Contact Regina Hutcherson at (502)564-4446 to donate time.

Joyce Turley of Medicaid Services, who was seriously injured in an automobile accident February 10, also needs donated sick leave. Contact Peggy Puckett at 564-5472.

Ruth Wilhoite of CFC's Family Support is on leave following back surgery. To donate sick leave, contact Charlene Nation or Carmen Maxson at (502) 564-7770.

Pipeline, a weekly newsletter for employees of the Cabinets for Families and Children and Health Services, welcomes reader comments and contributions. Items for *Pipeline* are due by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday; items for intercom announcements are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday. Call (502) 564-6786 or send information to Patricia Boler at Patricia.Boler@mail.state.ky.us

Summer Safety Tips

School is out and summer is in. Along with all this summer fun and relaxation comes summer health risks.

Dr. Rice Leach, Kentucky's commissioner for public health, a department of the Cabinet for Health Services, offers these simple guidelines for a safe summer.

Heat Related Problems

- The very young, the very old, and persons with heart disease, kidney disease, and lung disease are more likely than others to experience problems related to hot weather. They should stay in cool places on hot days, and perform outside tasks during the early morning and late afternoon when it is cooler.
- If you feel like you are getting too hot or are getting tired or lightheaded, take a break.
- Don't leave children unattended in a car, especially in the heat. Teach children not to play in or around cars.

Injury Prevention

- **Always** supervise children, even if they are "only in the backyard" or in the neighborhood. Children under 10 should never cross the street alone.
- Provide adult supervision any time small children are in swimming or wading pools. Fence private pools.
- Alcohol and swimming don't mix.
- Don't let children swim in pools if the water is cloudy. Parents should use protective pants to keep babies in diapers from contaminating the water.
- Be sure children and adults alike wear protective helmets while riding bicycles or skating.
- Be sure that persons operating boats, water skis, and other watercraft are trained and licensed, use life jackets when appropriate and are not drinking alcohol.
- Avoid sunburn. It hurts and can cause skin cancer. Use a sunscreen with a rating of 15 or more.
- Keep babies out of direct sunlight.
- Poison ivy and poison oak skin irritation can be minimized by avoiding wooded areas and by learning how to recognize the plants.
- When mowing lawns, wear shoes to protect your toes (sandals don't protect) and glasses or goggles to keep flying debris out of your eyes. Children should not ride mowers and should stay away during mowing.
- Keep children away from barbecues and bonfires. Have water present for emergencies.
- Use seatbelts and child safety seats.

Farm Safety

- Children should be closely supervised and given only age-and ability-appropriate tasks on the farm.
- Free information on farm safety for children is available from Farm Safety 4 Just Kids by calling 1-800-423-KIDS or going online to <http://www.fs4jk.org/>

CHS Assigns MARS Security ID's

MARS users in the Cabinet for Health Services will soon be assigned Security ID's, in preparation for MARS implementation on July 1.

CHS-MARS office/department Security Leads received all *MARS Security Profiles* for users in that agency earlier this week.

The two-page *Security Profile* includes the individual MARS user ID numbers, and instructions on how to sign in on the MARS system for the first time. Each MARS user will also be given additional instructions for signing in on *Advantage* software for the first time.

The ID's assigned to MARS users are strictly confidential, as is the MARS information to which the users will have access. All users are reminded of their responsibility for protecting the information.

Countdown to Closeout Continues!

June 1999

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Th	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Effective June 18, only 9 days left to the end of SFY '99!



Health Info by Phone

Information on many health issues is just a phone call away, at **1-800-462-6122**.

The Cabinet maintains the toll-free information phone line for Health Services' Division of Adult and Child Health. The service offers information relative to family planning, pregnancy, WIC, Well Child Services, the Medicaid Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment Program, injury prevention, safety seats, genetics services, testing for lead poisoning, and services for children under the age of 3 with developmental delays.

Information on the Kentucky Women's Cancer Screening Project was recently added.

The phone calls are checked daily and the questions are routed to the appropriate program person, who is responsible for returning the call.